

CLAIMS

1. A self-stabilising support for a structure comprising:
 - a first pair of legs,
 - 5 means connected to the first pair of legs for supporting the structure;
 - a second pair of legs
 - a bearing acting between the first pair of legs and the second pair of legs and allowing the second pair of legs to pivot with respect to the first pair of legs about an axis whereby the four legs of the first and second pair can, by suitably pivoting the second pair of legs with respect to the first pair, 10 be firmly planted on an uneven surface to support the said structure; and
 - damping means to dampen and resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.
- 15 2. A support as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, the axis lies in a generally horizontal plane.
3. A support as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the axis extends 20 generally perpendicularly to a notional line joining the ends of the legs of the first pair that engage the ground.
4. A support as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the only substantial relative motion between the first and second pairs of legs is the said 25 pivoting about the axis.
5. A support as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the damping means comprises a piston and cylinder acting directly or indirectly between the

first and second pair of legs and acting to resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.

6. A support as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the damping means comprises a body of viscous fluid arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.

7. A support as claimed in claim 6, wherein viscous fluid comprises a gel, a colloid, a dilitant composition or a thixotropic composition.

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8. A support as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the viscous fluid is selected from the group consisting of silicon gels, silicone polymers and viscous colloids.

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9. A support as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the bearing comprises the said body of viscous fluid arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.

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10. A support as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bearing comprises a shaft, a bushing and a chamber between the shaft and the bushing in which said body of viscous fluid is accommodated.

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11. A support as claimed in claim 10, wherein the chamber is defined at least in part by a wall formed by the shaft and a wall formed by the bushing and wherein at least one of the said walls is not circular cylindrical in shape.

12.. An article of furniture supported on legs, the legs being formed by the support as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.

13. An article of furniture as claimed in claim 12, wherein centre of gravity of the article is spaced apart in a horizontal direction from the axis.